

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, EC, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET RADIO AND SENAT EXCHANGE CHARGES ON EC TIES

REF: USBERLIN 0754

1. SUMMARY: SENAT REACTED QUICKLY APRIL 26 TO NEW RADIO MOSCOW ATTACK ON BERLIN-EC RELATIONSHIP. IN SPEARATE STATEMENTS SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN AND MAYOR OXFORT ASSERTED THAT CITY IS PART OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THAT LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL EC OFFICES HERE WOULD BE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. RADIO MOSCOW ATTACK COINCIDED WITH OPENING OF EC-SPONSORED SCHOLARLY MEETING IN BERLIN AND INCLUDED CRITICISM IN PASSING OF SEVERAL OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN SCENE THAT SOVIETS APPARENTLY FEEL GO AGAINST THE GRAIN BUT DON'T OFFER SUFFICIENT TARGET FOR FORMAL PROTEST. END SUMMARY.

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2. BERLIN PRESS APRIL 26 GIVES FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE TO RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY FROM PREVIOUS DAY, ATTRIBUTED TO ANALYST SIDIROV, AND TO SENAT RESPONSE. SOVIET COMMENTARY RETURNED TO FAMILIAR THEME THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF EC VOCATIONAL CENTER HERE LAST YEAR VIOLATED QA AND THEN, IN DIRECT REFERENCE TO REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MAYOR OXFORT EARLIER THIS MONTH (REFTEL), ASSERTED THAT EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL EC OFFICES HERE WOULD PRODUCE NEW TROUBLES. COMMENTARY CLAIMED THAT EC-BERLIN TIES WERE MERE COVER FOR EFFORT TO "INTEGRATE WEST BERLIN IN STATE SYSTEM OF FRG" AND THAT THIS WOULD UNDERMINE QA. COMMENTARY ADDED THAT WEST BERLIN REMAINS "SPECIAL CASE (BESONDERES GEBILDE) THAT IS NOT PART OF FRG AND MAY NOT BE GOVERNED BY IT," AND THAT QA IS DELICATELY BALANCED DOCUMENT SLIGHTEST DISRUPTION OF WHICH "CAN PRODUCE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES."

3. SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN STRUVE REJECTED RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY "WITH ALL SHARPNESS," AND ASSERTED THAT AS BERLIN'S PARTICIPATION IN EC IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH QA, "EVERY EC INSTITUTION CAN HAVE ITS SEAT HERE." OXFORT, WHO PERHAPS NOT COINCIDENTALLY WAS HOSTING RECEPTION FOR 350 PARTICIPANTS IN SEMINAR ON PRESERVATION OF EUROPEAN MEMORIALS SPONSORED BY EC COMMISSION, ASSERTED THAT QA HAS NOT SOLVED ALL BERLIN'S PROBLEMS, THAT CITY CONTINUES TO REQUIRE SUPPORT OF ITS FRIENDS AND THAT EC SEMINAR WAS FURTHER PROOF OF "CITY'S MEMBERSHIP IN EC AND IN WORLD OF EUROPEAN INTER-STATE AFFAIRS."

4. RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY ALSO TOOK SIDE SWIPE AT RECENT COMMENTS OF SENATOR FOR INTERIOR NEUBAUER WHO HAD ASSERTED THAT BERLIN SPD EXPECTED AT SOME APPROPRIATE TIME IN FUTURE TO AGAIN BE ABLE TO CARRY ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN SOVIET SECTOR OF CITY THAT HAD BEEN TERMINATED ONLY WITH ERECTION OF WALL IN 1961. COMMENTATOR CHARACTERIZED EXPRESSED DESIRE TO CARRY OUT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN "CAPITAL OF GDR" AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"EITHER POLITICAL FRIVOLITY OR IRRESPONSIBILITY." IN FINAL JIBE RADIO MOSCOW CHARACTERIZED RECENT REPORTS OF INTENTION OF AT LEAST ONE CDU LANDTAG FRAKTION (SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN) TO HOLD MEETING IN BERLIN, AS "OBVIOUS PROVOCATION" CAUSED BY TACTICAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. SPOKESMAN FOR SPD-FDP SENAT LET LATTER CHARGE PASS BUT DEFENDED SPD FROM ACCUSATION OF INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OF GDR BY POINTING OUT THAT

PARTY ACTIVITY IN ALL FOUR SECTORS OF CITY WAS APPROPRIATE SINCE QUADRIPARTITE STATUS APPLIES TO ENTIRE CITY, NOT TO WESTERN SECTORS ALONE.

5. COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE APPEARS ROUTINE. IT EMPHASIZES, HOWEVER, SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO CITY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EC AND MINUTE CARE WITH WHICH THEY FOLLOW CITY'S AFFAIRS AND STATEMENTS OF ITS POLITICIANS EVEN WHEN, AS IN APPARENTLY CASE THIS TIME, THEY DO NOT FIND ENOUGH MEAT FOR FORMAL PROTEST TO ALLIES. GEORGE

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